

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 H-02 NSC-05

SAM-01 /060 W

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O R 101151Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIAT 2094

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBSSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0473

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGV, PFOR, ELTN, WB, GW, G, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS ON REICHSBAHN PROBLEM

REFS:(A) USBERLIN 0466, (B) BONN 3957

1. SUMMARY: SENAT BELIEVES DUAL SENAT/ALLIED EMPLOYEES AS CHANNEL TO REICHSBAHN BEST WAY OUT IIM PASSE. WHILE NOT DESIRING CONFRONTATION, SENAT BELIEVES IT CANNOT BE AVOIDED IF EAST GERMANS CONTINUE TO STAND FIRM. END SUMMARY:

2. AT MEETING WITH LIAISON OFFICERS SUBSEQUENT TO LUNCHEON CITED IN REF (A) , HERZ SUGGESTED THAT USING SENAT AND BUNDESBahn EMPLOYEES WERNER AND SELIGER (WHO ALSO WORK PART-TIME FOR BRITISH AND US MISSIONS RESPECTIVELY) AS INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN ALLIES AND REICHSBAHN WAS MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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LIKELY WAY OUT OF IMPASSE.

3. HERZ EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR ALLIED POSITION AND NOTED THAT IN PAST IT HAD OFTEN BEEN NECESSARY FOR ALLIES AND SENAT TO RE-EDUCATE SUCCESSIVE FRG GOVERNMENTS ON REALITIES OF BERLIN AND NECESSITY TO SUPPORT ALLIED LEGAL POSITIONS. HERZ CONFIRMED THAT WHEN GAUS MET WITH SEIDEL, DISCUSSION ON REICHSBAHN PROBLEM WAS OFF THE RECORD AS SEIDEL HAD EMPHASIZED HIS LACK OF COMPETENCE FOR WEST BERLIN MATTERS(THUS CONFIRMING WHAT MITDANK TOLD KUNZE).

4. IN RESPONSE TO BRITISH LIAISON OFFICER ASKING IF SENAT WERE PREPARED TO SEE CONFRONTATION WITH GDR ON REICHSBAHN FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ALLIED ORDER, HERZ REPLIED THAT SENAT WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE SUCH CONFRONTATION AT PRESENT TIME. HE ADDED THAT IF AFTER NEXT GAUS-SEIDEL MEETING(AND ALLOWING TIME FOR SOVIETS TO WEIGH IN) IT APPEARED THAT THERE WAS NO GIVE IN GDR POSITION, IT WOULD MEAN THAT EAST GERMANS WANTED CONFRONTATION FROM WHICH ALLIES SHOULD NOT BACK AWAY. HERZ EMPHASIZED THAT AUTHORITY OF ALLIES IS BASIS FOR SECURITY AND STATUS OF WEST BERLIN, THEREFORE, REICHSBAHN COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO IGNORE ALLIED ORDER. HE ADDED THAT IF EAST GERMANS REALLY WANT TO FIND A WAY OUT OF IMPASSE, IT SHOULD BECOME EVIDENT AT NEXT GAUS-SEIDEL MEETING. HERZ STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT IF MITDANK REQUESTS MEETING WITH SENAT OFFICIAL PARALLEL TO NEXT GAUS-SEIDEL, SENAT WILL TURN HIM DOWN.

5. AT LATER MEETING ON MARCH 9, BRITISH AND FRENCH POLADS AGREED TO ASK THEIR MISSION TO ENDORSE GENERAL THRUST OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN USBER 466. BRITISH POLAD, HOWEVER, EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE FOOT-DRAWING IN BONN ON UK SIDE, BECAUSE LONDON INSTRUCTIONS WERE " VERY WEAK". (COMMENT: THE BRITISH HERE, WHILE MORE CAUTIOUS THAN THE FRENCH OR WE, PROFESS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE ALLIES WILL HAVE TO STOP THE REICHSBAHN WORK IF GDR NON-COMPLIANCE CONTINUES. END COMMENT).

6. WE POINTED OUT THAT APPROVAL OF THE TEXT OF THE
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INUNCTION TYPE BK/O(USBER 427) IS A SEPARATE DECISION FROM THE DECISION TO IMPLEMENT IT. WE THOUGHT WAS URGENT TO PROCEED TO PROMPT CLEARANCE OF THE TEXT, SO THAT IT COULD BE IN HAND AS A CONTINGENCY INSTRUMENT, AND WE HOPE THAT THIS APPROVAL WOULD NOT BE DELAYED BY UNCERTAINTIES AS TO FINAL ACTION. THE UK AND FRENCH POLADS AGREED.

7. FRENCH (CHAIRMAN) POLAD HAS EXPRESSED SOME PURISTIC DOUBTS AS TO PROPRIETY OF GAUS SUGGESING THAT SENAT EMPLOYEES, WHO ALSO WORK FOR US AND UK MISSIONS, SERVE AS CHANNELS. WE TOLD HIM THAT TWO EMPLOYEES IN QUESTION HAVE ADDITIONAL HATS AS BUNDESBAHN REPRESENTATIVES AND THIS SATISFIED HIM.

8. REGARDING CONTACTS WITH SOVIET EMBASSY, FRENCH POLAD HAS ALREADY INVITED SOVIET COUNSELOR KHOTULEV AND US POLAD TO FAREWELL LUNCH ON MARCH 15 FOR DEPARTING UK COLLEAGUE. THIS IS SOCIAL OCCASION; WE CAN ALWAYS AVOID MENTIONING REICHSBAH,. MOREOVER, KHOTULEV HAS NOT YET ACCEPTED.

9. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT GAUS WILL SEE THE EAST GERMANS TOMORROW (MARCH 11), SO THAT IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO BRIEF HIM ON SCENARIO PROPOSED BY STOBBE IN USBER 466. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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